

5 March 1986
MBK-6003

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau -- February 1986

I. GENERAL

A. The crisis and subsequent revolution in the Philippines following the 7 February elections held the rapt attention of everyone during the month. The Bureau's new ROSET permitted coverage of the PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY, BERNAMA, and ANTARA from the OANA press agency pool which resulted in a surprising 119,600 publishable words filed from these sources -- most of it on the crisis. Systematic cruising work proceeded briskly during the month despite a faulty antenna control unit on the analyst dish which made it difficult to move from one satellite to another. Analysis of the material available on satellite should proceed more quickly once things settle down in the Philippines and the operational dish becomes freer.

B. An "Indochina Coordination Group" chaired by the DCM was established during the month with the FBIS bureau chief as a permanent member. Meetings are held several times a month with representatives of a number of sections and agencies in attendance to discuss and exchange information on substantive matters dealing with Indochina. In this way the Embassy expects to better coordinate the Mission's reporting on Indochina, and the inclusion of the Bureau Chief as a founding member attests to the increased importance attached to the contributions FBIS is able to make.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Extensive cruising efforts were devoted to the Philippine media during the crisis, and the BBC, in a message to the three Far East bureaus involved, indicated the overall effort had been "invaluable." On the 24th, it appeared the Bureau might be out of the Philippine crisis coverage when PNA offices were "stormed by angry demonstrators" and the news agency fell silent. However, PNA resumed operations on the 27th following the change in government and has, if anything, been filing more copy than before.

2. The clandestine "Voice of the People of Burma," the mouthpiece of the illegal Communist Party of Burma, resumed broadcasting on 1 February. It had last been heard on 16 April 1985. On the 23d, it broadcast an "Appeal" approved by the party in October 1985 in which it stated its willingness to "discuss and exchange views with any patriotic persons and political organizations" the implementation of three points, one of which was the "dismantling of the single-party dictatorship and giving democratic rights to the people."

3. Early in the month Thai and Malaysian troops carried out operations along their joint border against communist insurgents in an effort to root out guerrillas who have long used the dense jungles to protect their camps. As an apparent result, the clandestine "Voice of the People of Malaysia" has not been heard since 10 February. According to a Bangkok newspaper report, Thai troops overran a guerrilla communications camp which reportedly housed the stations. As of the end of the month the clandestine station had not yet resumed broadcasting.

4. ROSET cruising efforts during the month concentrated on the Intelsat at 63 East, the Insat at 74 East, and the Soviet satellite at 80 East. Videotapes containing pass feed television programs requested by MOD along with a tape of Moscow television for MOD to evaluate were sent to Headquarters. FAX transmissions on the 80E Soviet satellite are being recorded for evaluation by Engineering Support Group. A number of Indian press agencies were located on the 63E and 74E satellites along with a number of interesting looking radial and tributary press casts from Indochina countries on the 80E Soviet satellite.

B. Communications

Lengthy outages on 4-5 and 13-16 February and lesser outages at other times plagued the bureau during the month. At times the outages involved both the primary and the altroute leaving the Bureau dependent on telex. While some of the problems on the primary circuit involved local difficulties [] the majority were at the Clark AFB facility. Computer problems at Clark accounted for some of the outages; however, on at least seven occasions the Bureau was not informed of the nature of the problem. Outages on the primary circuit for the month totalled 45 hours and 47 minutes. STAT

C. Lateral Services

1. As a result of a conversation the Bureau Chief had with members of the Embassy Political Section, AG was asked to assess Vietnam's current foreign policy stance for indications of softening on some issues. While no softening was noted, the analysis was well received for its professionalism and rapid delivery. ✓

2. The Bureau expanded the material being provided the Australian Embassy to include not only the material from the clandestine "Voice of the People of Burma" now being received, but also all material from the media of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos to include material on Indochina from other sources.

D. Technical

1. The boardmen at Bang Ping have been trained in the basics of some of the operations of ROSET equipment, such as moving the operational dish from satellite to satellite, peaking the signals, and assisting in moving the dish manually as required. Further training is proceeding as appropriate and as time permits.

2. The Bureau received the following accountable property: 1 ea Sony ICF 2001D radio receiver SN 34418.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. was promoted to GS-10 on 2 February.

STAT

2. A candidate was chosen for the new receptionist position during the month and processing is underway.

STAT

Chief, Bangkok Bureau

RMB:cla

Attachment: Production Report

BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	638,030
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	309,740
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,412

	<u>BROAD-CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI-CATION</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	21,310 min.	20,420 min.	254.00 issues
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ROSET SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			

INDONESIA

Jakarta ANTARA in English	7,820
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MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English	34,160
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PHILIPPINES

Manila PNA in English	77,610
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IV. OUTPUT FROM ALL OTHER SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	12,090
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BANGLADESH

Dhaka Domestic Service in English	2,140
Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali	220
Dhaka BSS in English	80
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English	140

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
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BRUNEI

Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in
English

230

BURMA

Rangoon Domestic Service in
Burmese
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in
English

11,090

120

CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in
Cambodian
Phnom Penh SPK in
English
Phnom Penh SPK in
French

39,000

7,720

10,450

CHINA

Beijing International Service in
Thai
Beijing in
Cambodian to Cambodia
Beijing in
Malay to Malaysia

1,440

1,840

300

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in
Cambodian
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in
Malay
(Clandestine) Voice of The National Army Democratic Kampuchea in
Cambodian
(Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in
Cambodian
(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma in
Burmese

15,030

4,820

11,250

15,190

5,260

INDIA

Delhi Domestic Service in
English
Delhi Domestic Service in
Urdu
Delhi General Overseas Service in
English
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in
English
Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in
English

47,120

250

4,570

3,450

530

<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
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INDIA (continued)

Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in
English

640

INDONESIA

Jakarta Domestic Service in
Indonesian

3,630

Jakarta International Service in
English

1,080

Jakarta BERITA BUANA in
Indonesian

1,150

Jakarta JAKARTA POST in
English

370

Jakarta KOMPAS in
Indonesian

380

Jakarta MERDEKA in
Indonesian

3,970

Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in
English

60

LAOS

Vientiane Domestic Service in
Lao

26,120

Vientiane KPL in
English

21,890

Vientiane PASASON in
Lao

12,320

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in
English

2,550

Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in
Malay

1,240

Kuala Lumpur International Service in
English

6,290

Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in
Malay

80

Kuala Lumpur BERITA MINGGU in
Malay

170

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in
English

2,960

Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in
Malay

520

NEPAL

Katmandu External Service in
English

1,280

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
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PAKISTAN

Karachi Domestic Service in English	3,690	
Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	11,490	
Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu	2,210	

SINGAPORE

Singapore Domestic Service in English	1,800	
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English		1,300

SRI LANKA

Colombo Domestic Service in English	1,820	
Colombo International Service in English	13,010	
Colombo DAILY NEWS in English		50

THAILAND

Bangkok Domestic Service in English	2,660	
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	8,320	
Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai	1,760	
Bangkok Television Service in Thai	2,740	
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Cambodian	1,250	
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	2,020	
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	2,780	
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English		27,150
Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English		7,100
Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai		300
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai		2,700
Bangkok NAED NA in Thai		2,530
Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai		680
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai		2,470

<u>BROAD-</u>	<u>PRESS</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u>
<u>CASTS</u>	<u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>CATION</u>

THAILAND (continued)

Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai		3,520
Bangkok THE NATION in English		32,810

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow in Burmese to Burma	2,810	
Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia	1,370	
Moscow in Urdu to Pakistan	1,020	

UNITED KINGDOM

London BBC World Service in English	200	
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VIETNAM

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese	54,440	
Hanoi International Service in English	5,280	
Hanoi VNA in English		5,830
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese		9,660
Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese		20,640